



Permit Requirements for Working in Idaho Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands

Compiled by the Department of Environmental Quality

Idaho Department of Water Resources, Stream Alteration Permit

1910 N.W. Blvd., Suite 210, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 Phone (208) 769-1450

P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-7866 Phone (208) 327-7900

The Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act requires a permit for most stream channel alterations that occur below the ordinary high water mark. Permits are not required for work done on intermittent streams, for the Port District of Lewiston, reservoir projects, or for work on structures related to valid water rights. An emergency permit can be issued if an activity is needed to protect life or property, as may be the case during times of flooding.

When a permit application is received by IDWR, it is forwarded to several agencies, including the Department of Environmental Quality, for review and comment. Agencies have the opportunity to conduct a site visit and request specific conditions of approval relating to minimizing adverse environmental effects of the project. IDWR can incorporate these comments into the Stream Alteration Permit. The comment period is three weeks.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 Permit

U.S. ACOE, USFS Building, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 Phone (208) 765-7237

The Federal Clean Water Act requires a permit for the placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Under Section 401 of this act, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is required to issue a water quality certification for these permitted projects. The water quality certification sets conditions to the permit to assure that the activity will comply with state water quality standards. After receiving the information from the Corps of Engineers, the Idaho DEQ has 60 days to issue a water quality certification.

Idaho Department of Lands, Lake Encroachment Permit

Idaho Department of Lands, P.O. Box 670, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816-0670 Phone (208) 769-1525

The Idaho Lake Protection Act requires a permit for work on or above the lake bed and below the ordinary high water mark. This includes riprap, breakwaters and aids to navigation such as docks, piers, pilings, buoys and boat ramps. State agencies, including the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, have the opportunity to review and comment on the potential environmental effects of the projects. The typical comment period is two to three weeks.

Only one application is needed for all of these permits. For a copy of an application, please contact the appropriate agency.

